(g) The actual quantity of wheat procured upto 4.8.97 during current Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98 is 92.69 lakh tonnes

(h) Government constantly reviews the stock position of wheat in the Central Pool and decision to import additional quantities will depend on the emerging situation.

[Translation]

Assistance for the Development of Land in U.P.

3248. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vast area of agricultural land is yet to be developed in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the extent of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development agriculture land during 1996-97; and

(c) the area of land for which assistance has been sanctioned during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Agriculture released Rs. 71.96 crores under various Schemes including Internationally added Projects during 1996-97 for development of agriculture land in U.P.

(c) An area of about 0.9 lakh ha. has been targetted during the current year.

Forest Land on Lease

3249. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 3719 on December 17, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the report received regarding lease out of forest land to the State Forest Development Confederation from the Government of Madhya Pradesh has since been examined; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that no forest land has been leased to any private entrepreneur and the State Government would encourage small and marginal farmers to grow wood species required for industries on marginal/ degraded lands available with them, with financial assistance from the State Bank of India and Central Bank of India.

(b) The Central Government had informed the State Government that the proposal to lease degraded forest lands to industry/private entrepreneurs would be violative of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the National Forest Policy, 1998.

[English]

Assistance from UNEP

3250. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds received by the Central Pollution Control Board from the organisation like UNEP during the last two years;

(b) the details of the projects on which the said funds were spent;

(c) whether these projects have since been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these projects are proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ambedkar Villages in J & K

3251. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages selected as Ambedkar village in Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government have not allocated sufficient amount for the development and welfare of these villages; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) There is no Ambedkar village in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

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3252. SHRI A. SAMPATH :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: